

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:**

1-9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) A device for determining an instant a vehicle makes contact with an impact object, comprising:

[[an]] a determining arrangement for determining the instant of contact by approximating a signal derived from an acceleration signal using a quadratic function.

11. (Original) The device as recited in claim 10, further comprising:  
an arrangement for one of filtering the acceleration signal and integrating the acceleration signal once or twice.

12. (Currently Amended) The device as recited in claim 10, ~~further comprising:~~  
~~an~~ wherein the determining arrangement ~~for taking~~ takes into account an impact velocity when determining the instant of contact.

13. (Currently Amended) The device as recited in claim 12, wherein the determining arrangement ~~for taking into account the impact velocity~~ determines the impact velocity as a function of a vehicle velocity.

14. (Currently Amended) The device as recited in claim 13, wherein the determining arrangement ~~for taking into account the impact velocity~~ determines the impact velocity as a function of a surrounding-field signal.

15. (Currently Amended) The device as recited in claim 10, further comprising:  
an approximating arrangement for approximating the signal using at least two threshold values.

16. (Canceled).

17. (Currently Amended) The device as recited in claim ~~[[16]]~~ 10, wherein the determining arrangement ~~for determining~~ determines the instant of contact from a vertex of the quadratic function.

18. (Currently Amended) The device as recited in claim 17, ~~further comprising:~~  
~~an~~ wherein the determining arrangement ~~for taking~~ takes into account an impact velocity linearly in the determination of the instant of contact.

19. (New) The device as recited in claim 10, further comprising:  
an approximating arrangement for approximating the signal using four threshold values.

20. (New) The device as recited in claim 13, further comprising:  
an approximating arrangement for approximating the signal using four threshold values.

21. (New) The device as recited in claim 13, further comprising:  
an approximating arrangement for approximating the signal using two threshold values.

22. (New) The device as recited in claim 10, wherein the determining arrangement determines the instant of contact from a vertex of the quadratic function, and wherein the determining arrangement takes into account an impact velocity linearly in the determination of the instant of contact.

23. (New) The device as recited in claim 22, further comprising:  
an approximating arrangement for approximating the signal using two threshold values.

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24. (New) The device as recited in claim 13, further comprising:  
an approximating arrangement for approximating the signal using four threshold  
values.